

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK REPORTS

doi: 10.1017/S0068246224000126

The British School at Rome's 2023 fieldwork programme had as its primary focus the completion of the data capture element of the Rome Transformed Project (<https://research.ncl.ac.uk/rometrans>) and the expansion of activities in support of the Falerii Novi Project ([www.faleriinoviproject.org](http://www.faleriinoviproject.org)).

The Rome Transformed Project, launched in October 2019, is funded as an Advanced Grant by the European Research Council (Grant Agreement No. 835271) and has brought together researchers from the University of Newcastle, the British School at Rome, the Università degli Studi di Firenze and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche. Over a four-year period, the team has explored, through a range of non-invasive methods, the archaeology of the Eastern Caelian Hill (Haynes *et al.*, 2023). As the project enters its final phase, the detailed analysis that has been conducted of the standing remains, as well as a programme of high-resolution recording, has led to a new understanding of this key area in Rome between the second and eighth centuries AD.

A second season of excavations at Falerii Novi was undertaken in late May–early June 2023, with the BSR being joined in its research by the Institute of Classical Studies (School of Advanced Studies, University of London), in order to provide a structured training programme for participating students. The focus of excavation activities in 2023 turned towards the forum, and a series of *tabernae* identified along the northern flank by the preceding geophysical surveys. The aim, similarly to the 2022 work near the South Gate (Andrews *et al.*, 2023), was to continue to focus upon these commercial spaces in order to record their changing function over time and to record evidence of daily life, including food consumption and patterns of exchange.

The Falerii Novi Project has amongst its aims an examination of the peripheral areas of the city, both within the city and immediately outside the walls. Previous geophysical prospection, including magnetometry and ground-penetrating radar (GPR), has mostly focused within the city walls. Therefore, in October 2022 Elena Pomar, BSR Geophysical Researcher, commenced a joint doctoral programme between the BSR and the University of Pisa to map the suburban area through non-invasive methods.

In 2023 a final season of excavation was undertaken at the rural Republican sanctuary of 'La Cuma' at Monte Rinaldo (Marche), a joint research partnership between the BSR, the University of Bologna, the regional Soprintendenza and the Comune di Monte Rinaldo. The six seasons of targeted excavation around the sanctuary, together with geophysical prospection and fieldwalking in the surrounding area, has led to a new understanding of the site and its role within the territory.

As part of the BSR's long running programme of investigations of Roman urbanism through geophysical prospection, in 2023 a new project was commenced in partnership with the Università degli Studi dell'Aquila, the Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio per le province di L'Aquila e Teramo and the Comune di Barisciano. The *vicus* of Furfo, identified in the territory of Barisciano (L'Aquila), offers a rare opportunity to examine one of these little-investigated settlement types. Fieldwork began in the autumn of 2023 with a preliminary investigation with magnetometry to test the effectiveness of the technique alongside a programme of fieldwalking undertaken by the Università degli Studi dell'Aquila. The results began to offer an



Fig. 1. Location of the archaeological fieldwork projects in Italy.

initial understanding of the extent of the settlement, which will be further explored with magnetometry and GPR over the course of 2024.

In late summer 2023 two geophysical surveys were undertaken in Sicily in support of colleagues working at the sites of Halaesa (Tusa) and Syracuse. The joint investigations of the University of Oxford and the University of Messina at the site of Halaesa have predominately focused on the promontory of the site where the Sanctuary of Apollo has been identified. A GPR survey was undertaken to further explore the extent of the complex. Further east at Syracuse, a new research agreement was established with the Parco Archeologico di Siracusa (Regione Siciliana) and the Università degli studi di Napoli Federico II (Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici), initially focusing on the investigation of the Temple of Olympian Zeus (Olympieion). A full survey of the site was conducted using magnetometry whilst parts of the podium of the temple were also investigated with GPR.

The British School at Rome is grateful to the regional authorities and the Ministry of Culture for its continued support of the BSR's archaeological research activities, as well as the growing number of collaborative partners. The following reports, from the long-term investigations of Interamna Lirenas and Monte Rinaldo to the newly established projects such as Furfo, demonstrate the vibrancy of archaeological research at the BSR.

*References*

- Andrews, M., Bernard, S., Ceccarelli, L., Dodd, E., Fochetti, B., Kay, S and Vermeulen, F. (2023) The Falerii Novi Project: the 2022 season. *Papers of the British School at Rome* 91: 331–5.
- Haynes, I.P., Ravasi, T., Kay S., Piro, S. and Liverani, P. (2023) *Non-intrusive Methodologies for Large Area Urban Research: a 'Rome Transformed' Conference*. Archaeopress, Oxford.

STEPHEN KAY

(Archaeology Manager, British School at Rome)

[s.kay@bsrome.it](mailto:s.kay@bsrome.it)

## ROME TRANSFORMED: STUDYING THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE EASTERN CAELIAN

doi: 10.1017/S0068246224000138

With the bulk of its fieldwork completed in the first four years of our five-year project, ROME TRANS ‘Rome Transformed: interdisciplinary analysis of political, military and religious regenerations of the city’s forgotten quarter C1-C8 CE’ [<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/835271>], this year saw more targeted work in site activity aimed at answering specific questions that emerged from our research. As a result, the work which we did undertake was varied, challenging and in some ways still more fruitful, because it capitalized on our growing experience of the structures, spaces and landscape of the study area.

From the outset the project has depended on the best possible geospatial data to ensure that the structural analysis, environmental survey, geophysical prospection and archival research can be brought together to map transformation convincingly. Maintaining a high-resolution geospatial control is a decidedly non-trivial task, and with so many work packages being delivered by so many teams at multiple sites across our 68-hectare research area gaps in coverage were to be expected. At the end of February 2024 Stephen Kay and Elena Pomar (British School at Rome) undertook a vital period of topographical survey work to close those gaps; this complemented an earlier programme of work using laser scanning in Piazza S. Giovanni in January which was used to further tighten the control. The surveying complemented ongoing study of the project’s geophysics data, including notably the work of Salvatore Piro in the Lateran/Patriarchium area, together with other data gathered by the BSR team within the Rome Transformed project.

In addition to the survey work, there was an extended period of structural analysis and laser scanning in January and February 2024 coordinated by Thea Ravasi. Much of our work focused on the western end of the research area, in and around the Archbasilica of S. Giovanni in Laterano (the Lateran Basilica). Here Alex Turner completed a new photographic survey of the enigmatic ‘Trapezoidal Building’ that lies beneath the Archbasilica’s late-nineteenth-century apse, while Susan Rands and David Williams reappraised brick and stonework elements of the Castra Nova. Elettra Santucci lent her expertise on hydrological engineering to the challenge of interpreting the chambers within the Castra ramparts, confirming definitively that at least some of them were used as water reservoirs.